

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02
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FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
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AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK POUCH

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0349

FROM US REP MBFR USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM NATO
SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD JUNE 12-18

REF: MBFR VIENNA 341 DTG 151020Z JUNE 78

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. IN RESPONSE TO WESTERN QUESTIONS, EASTERN
REPS AT THE JUNE 13 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION
NEGOTIATIONS PROVIDED SOME ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATIONS REGARDING
THE JUNE 8 EASTERN PROPOSALS. AT THE JUNE 15 PLENARY MEETING,
CZECHOSLOVAK REP URGED AN EARLY AND CONSTRUCTIVE WESTERN RESPONSE

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TO THE NEW EASTERN MOVE WHICH, HE CLAIMED, HAD CREATED THE
POSSIBILITY FOR PARTICIPANTS TO PROCEED IMMEDIATELY TO THE ACTUAL
DRAFTING OF A FIRST AGREEMENT. THE EASTERN SPOKESMAN AT THE
POST-PLENARY PRESS BRIEFING HIGHLIGHTED THE SAME POINTS AND MADE
CLAR THAT THE LATEST EASTERN PROPOSALS WERE PREDICATED UPON
THE EXISTENCE OF AN APPROXIMATELY EVEN BALANCE OF FORCES IN
CENTRAL EUROPE. END SUMMARY.

2. AT THE JUNE 13 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE VIENNA TALKS, WESTERN REPS ASKED A SERIES OF QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEW EASTERN PROPOSALS OF JUNE 8. EASTERN REPLIES WERE RELATIVELY FORTHCOMING AND YIELDED SOME NEW INFORMATION ON THE EASTERN PROPOSALS. THE LATTER ARE SUMMARIZED IN THE ANNEX TO THE JUNE 14 WRITTEN AD HOC GROUP REPORT TO THE NAC FORWARDED REFTEL. EARLIER IN THE SESSION, EASTERN REPS ELABORATED UPON THE MERITS OF THEIR JUNE 8 PROPOSALS AND WESTERN REPS RESPONDED TO PREVIOUS EASTERN CRITICISMS OF THAT ASPECT OF THE APRIL 19 WESTERN INITIATIVE DEALING WITH COMMITMENTS TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN PHASE I BY NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS AS REGARDS THEIR PARTICIPATION IN PHASE II REDUCTIONS. THE SESSION ALSO INCLUDED A FURTHER EXCHANGE OF MANPOWER DATA QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

3. IN A STATEMENT DELIVERED AT THE JUNE 15 PLENARY MEETING, CZECHOSLOVAK REP KEBLUSEK QUOTED FROM A MAY 26 ADDRESS MADE BY HIS FOREIGN MINISTER BEFORE THE UNSSOD TO THE EFFECT THAT IT WAS TIME FOR THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS TO DISPENSE WITH QUOTE THE ENDLESS DISCUSSION OF TECHNICAL DETAILS UNQUOTE AND MOVE TOWARD THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A REDUCTION AGREEMENT. KEBLUSEK DISMISSED THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE APRIL 19 WESTERN INITIATIVE COULD LEAD TO PROGRESS ON FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS IN THE TALKS AND STRONGLY ASSERTED THE EXISTENCE OF APPROXIMATE MILITARY MANPOWER EQUALITY BETWEEN NATO AND WARSAW PACT FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE. HE WENT ON TO REPEAT AT LENGTH FAMILIAR EASTERN CRITICISMS OF THE WESTERN
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CONCEPT OF COLLECTIVE CEILINGS AND TO DEVELOP THE PROPOSITION THAT THE JUNE 8 EASTERN PROPOSALS OFFER A REASONABLE COMPROMISE METHOD FOR RESOLVING EAST-WEST DIFFERENCES OVER THIS ISSUE.

4. CZECHOSLOVAK REP CONCLUDED HIS PLENARY REMARKS BY URGING AN EARLY AND CONSTRUCTIVE WESTERN RESPONSE TO THE NEW EASTERN PROPOSALS WHICH, HE CLAIMED, HAD CREATED THE POSSIBILITY FOR PARTICIPANTS TO PROCEED IMMEDIATELY TO THE ACTUAL DRAFTING OF A FIRST AGREEMENT. THE EASTERN SPOKESMAN HIGHLIGHTED THIS SAME THEME IN HIS PREPARED STATEMENT AT THE REGULAR POST-PLENARY PRESS BRIEFING. THE BRIEFING WAS HEAVILY ATTENDED AND EXCEPTIONALLY ACTIVE. DURING THE QUESTION-AND-ANSWER PORTION, THE EASTERN SPOKESMAN WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THE JUNE 8 EASTERN PROPOSALS WERE PREDICATED UPON THE EXISTENCE OF AN APPROXIMATELY EVEN BALANCE OF FORCES IN THE REDUCTION AREA. HE DID SO IN FOLLOWING UP A COMMENT MADE BY THE WESTERN SPOKESMAN THAT THE PRACTICAL VALUE OF THAT ASPECT OF THE EAST'S NEW PROPOSAL WHICH ACCEPTS THE PRINCIPLE OF THE COMMON CEILING WAS QUESTIONABLE IN THAT IT PRESUPPOSED WESTERN ACCEPTANCE OF THE DATA TABLED BY THE EAST ON WARSAW PACT MILITARY MANPOWER. RESOR

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